

# The Ballarat Naturalist

Volume 24 No.03

April 2024



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## Deep Time in the Flinders Ranges

**Marilyn Hewish**

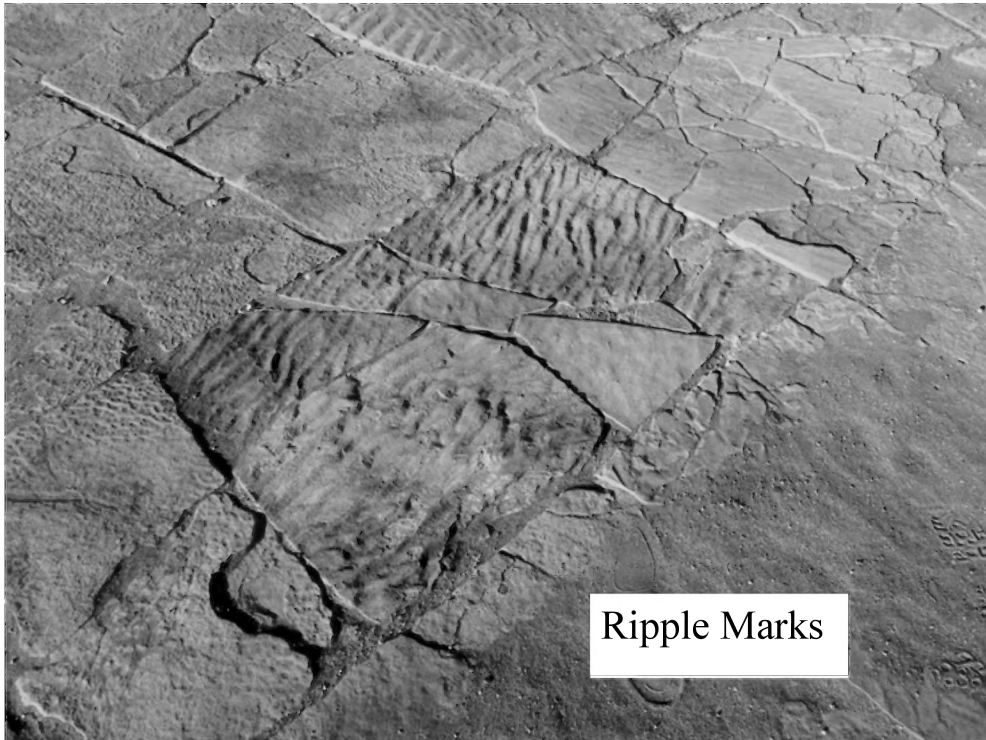
Living in Adelaide, Marilyn visited the Flinders Ranges on many family camping holidays and became very familiar with the region. This appreciation of landscape led to a deeper interest in geological processes, particularly geomorphology and palaeontology, and coming to grips with the millions or billions of years – “deep time”- over which these processes have occurred.

More recent camping trips enabled Marilyn to delve into the geological history of the Flinders Ranges and discover some of the stages which created today’s landscape. This required a detailed investigation of the Pre-Cambrian Period i.e. between 800-500 million years ago (mya), preceding the “explosion” of larger complex multicellular life in the Cambrian Period when creatures such as trilobites appear in the geological record.

Distinct stages in the evolution of the Flinders Ranges landscape can be recognised:

1. 800-300mya – deposition of sediment in a sea basin during this time can now be seen in Brachina Gorge where earth movements have subsequently tilted the layers; ripple marks have been preserved and the earliest forms of life have been found. The Gorge reveals an uninterrupted series of deposits over a 300my period.





2. Stromatolites have been found in the Gorge exposures dating 800-640mya and it is known that these have existed for 3.5 billion years. They are colonies of photosynthesising single-cell bacteria which form layers as they trap sediment, creating mounds which can be seen as rock elsewhere in Australia and which still live in Shark Bay, WA.

3. Amongst the rock layers in the Ranges are strata of debris unrelated to the adjoining sediments. The debris has been found to be the same as that which surrounds the 20km circular Lake Acraman 300km away to the south-west, a crater caused by meteor impact which resulted in displaced rocks being flung as far away as Brachina Gorge 590mya.

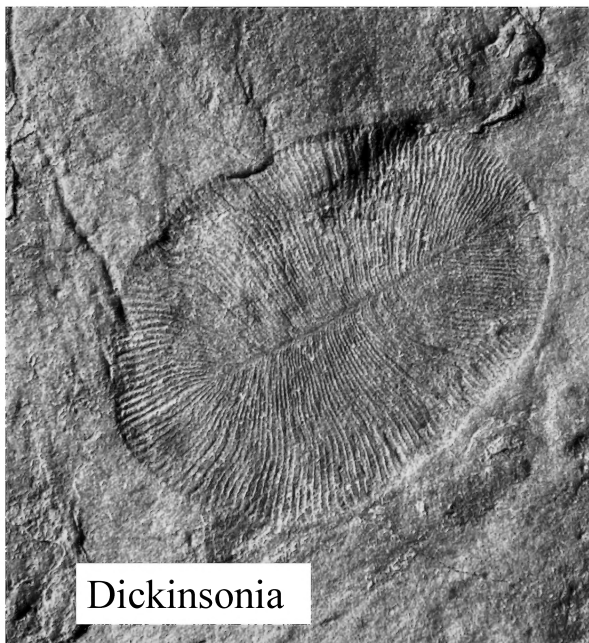
4. Around 540mya converging tectonic plates thrust up sedimentary layers, folding and faulting them to form the Flinders Ranges.

5. About 550mya the “Great Oxidation” occurred. Until this time Earth’s atmosphere largely consisted of nitrogen and carbon dioxide. Stromatolites had been releasing oxygen which was absorbed into the oceans but then began accumulating in the atmosphere, reaching current levels by 550mya. Consequently it began reacting with iron in the rocks, forming iron oxides causing the rocks and the soil which subsequently weathered from them to become rusty red, the colour we see over much of inland Australia. Oxygen readily reacts with other chemicals, resulting in the production of energy and enabling greater complexity in life forms with the development of multicellular organisms.

6. It had been thought that microscopic bacteria and other single-

celled organisms were all that were alive on Earth until the Cambrian Explosion. In 1946 Reg Spriggs was prospecting for valuable minerals in the Ediacara Hills of the northern Flinders Ranges. He noticed the impressions of what he thought must be extinct creatures now known as the Ediacaran Fauna, imprints of soft-bodied creatures.

It is unusual for the soft parts of creatures to be preserved – if they were not eaten by predators then subsequent layers of sediment would have abraded them. But these creatures had no shells or bones, and at this point there were no predators. *Dickinsonia* is perhaps the most well-known fossil found in the Ediacara Hills but



now more have been found both here and in the wider world.

Some appear to have been worms, others resemble sea pens anchored in the substrate. All were multicellular and often had bilateral symmetry.

Recently cholesterol has been extracted, revealing that indeed they are animals, not plants. One creature has been named after Reg Spriggs, *Spriggina*, which seems to have a head and may have been an arthropod. Tracks have been found which indicate there were creatures capable of movement.

These discoveries, confirmed by others now on every continent, have led to the establishment of a new stratigraphic name – the Ediacaran Period – which was commemorated by a Golden Spike driven into the rock in 2004, marking the location of this Global Stratotype.

Marilyn's enthusiastic talk was illustrated by sequences of photos and diagrams which gave her audience a clear understanding of these geological processes and brought to life her personal experiences and delight in finding these fossils and understanding their origin.

Additional reference: *Digging up Deep Time* by Paul Willis, pub. ABC Books.

N.B. The type site of the Cambrian Period is the Cambrian Mountains in Wales, UK.

# **A field trip to Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve**

By Emily Noble

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.30am seventeen FNCR members and a visitor convened at Merrimu Reservoir Picnic Ground, cuppas in hand, keen to hear about Long Forest from our esteemed guide, Marilyn Hewish. Marilyn is a life member of the Geelong FNC and was awarded the Australian Natural History Medallion in 2013. She has been appreciating and recording the birds in the approximately 800ha Long Forest [both within the 531ha Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve (NCR) and beyond it] for over 40 years. For twelve years, Marilyn turned her considerable focus from birds to moths and in 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic saw her locked out of the moth collection at Museums Victoria, she moved her focus to the plants of the Long Forest. We couldn't have asked for a better guide.



Marilyn led a detailed bird study in Long Forest between 1981-2005 involving more than 60 volunteers. The results were captured in the wonderful book “Birds of the Long Forest 1889-2005” of which she was principle author. 174 birds were observed in Long Forest during the study and, importantly, 79 species were recorded breeding in the Forest.

Some of the key aims of the book were: to give an insight into the value and uniqueness of the Long Forest, inspire passion for its birdlife and preserve the knowledge of its birdlife in permanent form so it is available for future generations. Recognising the importance of records in permanent, accessible form, Marilyn was an early adopter of iNaturalist



and is a strong advocate for its use. She was very pleased to learn that several members on the field trip would upload their observations from the day. They would automatically be collated into the “Biodiversity of Long Forest” project she had established to illuminate the natural values of Long Forest.

Marilyn explained that the vegetation providing this haven for birds is the only population of mallee woodland south of the Divide, some 120km from the nearest mallee woodlands to the north. It is believed to have persisted in this restricted area due to the poor shale and sandstone soils and pronounced rain-shadow that results in just 500mm average annual rainfall, whereas the rest of the mallee woodland probably colonising the region 7,000-8,000 years ago contracted northwards as climatic conditions became wetter.

The mallee woodland, with its single species of mallee eucalypt, Bull Mallee *Eucalyptus behriana*, occurs as a mosaic amidst open Grey Box-Red Box Woodlands with Yellow Box and Yellow Gum scattered throughout, and Blue Box and Manna Gums prevalent along the creeks and tributaries.



Over 400 plant species have been recorded in the reserve, but it isn't just numerous species from the Forest's diverse bird and plant lists that are listed as threatened under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG). The Temperate Woodland Bird Community itself is listed as threatened under the FFG and several ecological vegetation classes in the Long Forest are also listed. They include the Rocky Chenopod Woodland and Rocky Chenopod Open-scrub that we would wander through during our field trip.



Whilst some members had been visiting Long Forest for decades (and had even participated in Marilyn's bird surveys), many had never visited the NCR before and everyone was now keen to head across to the Reserve to start exploring. We drove to the beginning of Long Point Track off Canopus Circuit and someone found a moth before we'd even climbed the stile into the reserve. Marilyn exhorted everyone to stay together with a maze of tracks making it easy to get lost. A "tail-end Charlie" was appointed, no easy job in a group of highly distractible field nat's. Many photographed the trail map on the sign just in case they managed to wander off.

The group meandered along the Long Point Track, remarking on the beauty of the trunks of the Bull Mallee and observing Pigface *Carpobrotus modestus*, a wide range of caterpillars, galls and spiders. We also found some of the 16 chenopods recorded here

including Barrier Saltbush *Enchylaena tomentosa*, Fragrant Saltbush *Chenopodium parabolicum*, Saloop *C. robertianum*, Frosted Goosefoot *C. desertorum* and Berry Saltbush *Atriplex semibaccata*.



Moonah *Melaleuca lanceolata* was common among the Bull Mallee. Further along the track, Grey Box started appearing. A Unicorn Darner *Austroaeschna unicornis* considerably held its pose on a tree trunk allowing a closer look. (Photo p.14) Various lichens adorned the exposed shale and sandstone. An extraordinary collection of 100+ tiny insect eggs was noticed on a Bull Mallee trunk at the junction with Steep Track. Perhaps they belonged to a Mantidfly or Lacewing? People hurried across the edge of an extensive Meat Ant nest occupying most of the track before finding yet more interesting ant species just around the bend. Marilyn told us that the ants in the NCR had garnered much attention from researchers, and when Sheree found a “Spotted Muscleman Tree Ant”, a species most had never seen before, we could understand why.

As we continued to descend, Marilyn pointed out a clump of Blue Box. Whilst stopped, we spotted a pair of Brown Treecreepers in action. A little further along, Spotted and Imperial Jezebel butterflies were floating around and feeding in Box Mistletoe flowers in Grey,

## Red and Yellow Box.

A Yellow-tufted Honeyeater feeding in the nectar-rich eucalypt flowers amidst dense canopy foliage eluded photographers before the track levelled out near the Coimadai Creek. Square wombat scats on the track were a welcome sign and a magnificent Yellow Box with whorling bark patterns was appreciated by all. Marilyn explained that the biographical photo of her on the back of the book “Birds of the Long Forest...” was taken in front of this beloved tree and she had been very disappointed when the trunk was almost completely cropped out of the shot, so a re-enactment was staged, re-incorporating the tree. (Picture page 4)

From here, the path narrowed, an unfamiliar wattle encroaching upon the path. Identified as the Bacchus Marsh Wattle *Acacia rostriformis*, Marilyn noted that locals were very proud of this unique wattle species. We turned to start our 1.5km return journey when we reached the picturesque banks of the Coimadai Creek, thankful for the low 20s temperature as we climbed steadily back up the track to our cars.





After picnicking together at the start of Happy Valley Track, we wandered along the track to see several different plants: Yellow Gums *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*, a population of Turkeybush *Eremophila deserti* a long way from their nearest known population, *Spyridium ericifolium* and the endemic Forked Rice-flower *Pimelea hewardiana*.



We also saw more interesting caterpillars including the Emperor Gum Moth caterpillar and Geometrid loopers, several different galls including the Four-winged Gall, and three Jumping Spiders, one of which hadn't previously been recorded in Long Forest: Two-spotted Sandalodes, *S. scopifer*. (Photo page 12.)

We thanked Marilyn warmly for leading us on a fascinating day of field natting in some of her favourite places. Having her local insights, knowledge and company was a privilege. No doubt we will schedule a return visit to this delightful reserve before long.

P.S. As she does each month, Vireya has kindly written a journal post in our FNCB iNaturalist Project. Titled "Exploring Long Forest", it includes a link to all records uploaded from our field trip, with 186 observations and 89 species so far. If you have joined our <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fncb-inaturalist> project, any observations you make on field trips will be added to the monthly summaries.

# **Nomination of “Creswick Goldfield Water Distribution Heritage Precinct” for State Heritage Register**

Over the past three years club members have shown interest in research on the historic water races, dams, market gardens and other historic aspects of the alluvial goldfield between Creswick and Ballarat. This note outlines the results of studies that have now been used in the nomination of the Precinct for the State Heritage Register.

The proposed Heritage Precinct covers an area of 27.3 sq km of crown land southeast of Creswick. It lies in State Forest (13 sq km), Creswick Regional Park (12 sq km) and Central Highlands Water catchment (2.3 sq km). While most of the Precinct is in Hepburn Shire, nearly 20% lies in the City of Ballarat.

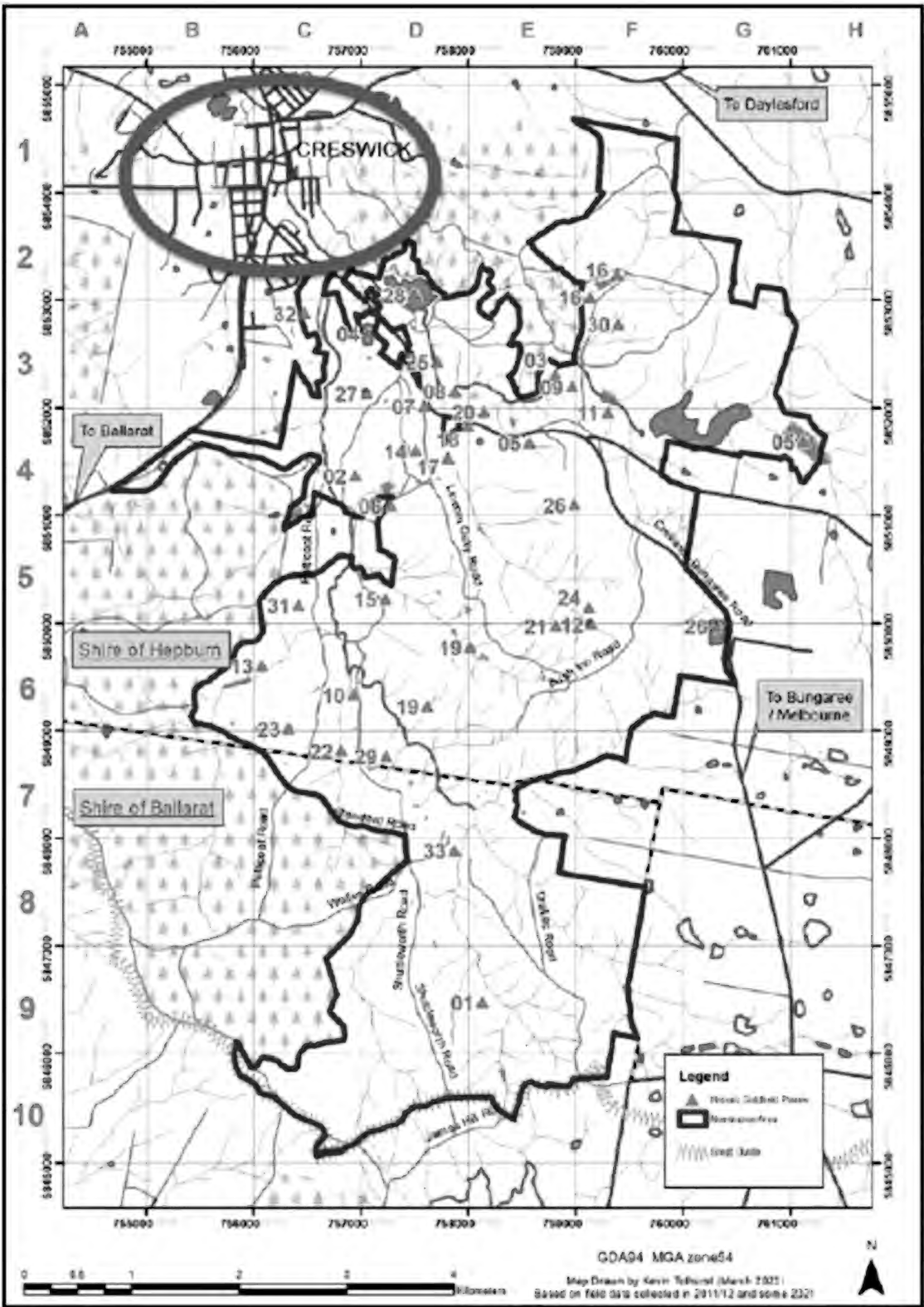
The Precinct includes 33 historical places, including 11 main water races (100 km), many dams, Chinese Gardens and Gold Puddling Machine sites – all extant features from the 1850s-90s gold rush. The 33 places are shown on the outline map on page 11, and in detail on other mapping.

The main significant heritage aspects of this Precinct are the density and intactness of the water races, the international entrepreneurs who built and operated these water supplies, and Chinese involvement in managing water. Also significant is the way the development of water-enterprises here helped to change the water law in Victoria and later Australia.

A hard copy of the document “Creswick Goldfield Water Distribution Heritage Precinct“ (Huddle Petheram and Tolhurst 2024) is available in the FNCB library. Digital versions of the document and maps are available for use by heritage, naturalist, or outdoor groups interested in following water races through interesting landscapes and vegetation west of the Great Divide.

Special credit goes to Lorraine Huddle (Heritage Professional) for her voluntary work in combining the results of research by La Trobe University’s “Rivers of Gold Project”, with recent photos, historic maps and images, and for making a strong case for State Heritage Significance for the Precinct. The mapping, local knowledge and field surveys of Dr Kevin Tolhurst from Creswick and the University of Melbourne Campus was invaluable to the Nomination.

Other maps can be viewed on our website



Creswick is highlighted with an oval shape. The precinct, which is south east of the township, is outlined in a thick solid line with 33 primary contributory places marked with numbered triangles (Tolhurst 2023)

**More photos from our March field trip.**



## Summary of the 71<sup>st</sup> FNCB Annual General Meeting Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### Opening and Welcome

President Margaret Rich welcomed 22 members and two visitors in person and nine members and two visitors via Zoom to the AGM

**Apologies** received from: W. Bolger and J. Mildren.

**Minutes of Previous (70<sup>th</sup>) AGM:** read by Secretary, Emily Noble.

**President's Report:** Margaret Rich presented her Annual President's Report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Kathy Elder presented the Annual Treasurer's Report, comprising the "Statement of Income and Expenses" and the "Statement of Financial Position" that she had prepared and John Gregurke had reviewed.

### Election of Office Bearers and general committee members

Margaret stepped down as President and handed over to Peter Dalman to oversee the election of office bearers and general committee members. Peter began by warmly acknowledging the work of the Committee over the last year. He also thanked Margaret for her work as the President over the last two years, noting that she was not re-nominating for that position. Peter also warmly thanked Elva for serving on the Committee for the last year, noting that she was stepping down from the Committee.

Peter declared all positions vacant then reported with some concern that no-one had accepted a nomination to be President or Vice-President and asked if anyone would now like to accept such a nomination or put forward a nomination for any other role on the Committee. No nominees or nominations were forth-coming. Moving on, he ran through the following list of nominations, proposers and seconders, noting that in the absence of any other nominations they were duly elected to the Committee and, on behalf of all members, wished them all the best for the coming year.

### Nominations

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| <b>President:</b>         | Vacant     |
| <b>Vice President:</b>    | Vacant     |
| <b>Secretary:</b>         | E. Noble   |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>         | K. Elder   |
| <b>Newsletter Editor:</b> | V. Hocking |



**Committee:**

V. Hocking , S. Cartledge, A. Arnold ‘J. Petheram , M. Rich  
G. Lunt, M. Thompson , N. Oddie

In the absence of an elected President or Vice-President at the close of the elections, Peter proposed the following motion:

**Motion:** That the Committee be delegated the authority to designate who Chairs each meeting and undertakes other tasks usually undertaken by the President or Vice-President.

**Moved:** P. Dalman

**Seconded:** S. Lorimer

**Carried.**

**General Business**

Due to the Club’s financially stable position, the Committee recommended that 2024-25 membership fees stay at 2023-24 levels. Membership fees are currently:

Ordinary Member (Adult) \$35.00 Family \$55.00

Distant Member \$20.00 Student Member \$15.00

Newsletter Postage \$13.20

**Motion:** That the FNCB’s membership fees remain unchanged in 2024-25.

**Moved:** K. Elder

**Seconded:** J. Gregurke

**Carried.**

The March 2024 Club Meeting immediately followed the AGM.



## **A summary of the FNCB Meeting Minutes 1st March 2024 7.30pm, Held in person and via Zoom**

**Opening and Apologies** Acting-President Margaret Rich welcomed 22 members and two visitors in person and nine members and two visitors via Zoom  
Apologies: W. Bolger and J. Mildren.

**Guest Speaker:** “Deep Time in Flinders Ranges”, a complex but simply-told story was wonderfully presented by Marilyn Hewish. Carol kindly volunteered to write-up this presentation for the April newsletter.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Motion:** that the Minutes of the previous Meeting (February 2, 2024) be accepted as a true and accurate record with one amendment as follows: Neville noted that Roger’s field report needed to be amended to reflect that the single Austral Ladies’ Tresses at Mag Dam was found by a community member, not Neville.

### **Business Arising from Correspondence:**

- Notice: FNCB’s membership of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria has been renewed.

- Margaret Rich provided an update on close Club contacts impacted by the recent Bayindeen fire: the Thurgoods and Jo Reid are safe and their houses have survived, though Jo’s garden was heavily impacted, right down to the water lilies on her pond.

- We learned last week that Ballarat Environment Network (BEN) is no longer a Committee of Management of 49-51 crown land reserves, a role that has now been taken on by newly established Not-for-profit company WREN. Peter Gell the current BEN Chair, has been asked to canvas local community interest in continuing BEN with a refocused statement of purposes, with the knowledge that none of the existing BEN Committee will stand for re-election to the Committee this year. If there is sufficient interest in forming a new Committee and continuing BEN in some form, Peter Gell will host an AGM (due before May). If not, the organisation will be wound up some time in April. Discussed possibilities/ options/ interest, given the long-term affiliation many FNCB members and the Club have had with BEN. The prevailing sentiment was that there had been negligible communication with members over the last year, leaving them largely in the dark about what was going on and why. It was suggested that if you are

interested in learning more about the changes to BEN, considering the implications of its potential wind-up, being involved in taking this impactful, 31 year-old year organisation forward in some form or in celebrating its history and achievements with some of the many hundreds of people who have been involved in its history, please get in touch with the current Chair, Peter Gell ([p.gell@federation.edu.au](mailto:p.gell@federation.edu.au)) and/or Secretary, Tim D’Ombrain ([tim.bioserv@gmail.com](mailto:tim.bioserv@gmail.com)) ASAP.

If they don’t receive any indications of interest before the end of March, BEN will be wound-up.

- John Petheram and Lorraine Huddle have successfully negotiated their online submission to Heritage Victoria, also providing HV with a hard-copy of their 300-page “Creswick Goldfields Water Distribution Precinct” Report, advocating for the *Precinct* to be added to the State Heritage Register.

Most of our Club’s newsletters (*The Ballarat Naturalist*) from 1974 to 2023 are now available on the Biodiversity Heritage Library and the remainder should be uploaded and available shortly. The Library is now ascribing unique Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to each article in the newsletters, so if/when an article from any edition of “The Ballarat Naturalist” is cited in a scientific paper or anywhere else, the reference to the article will include a link that will always point to our original article, making it easy for researchers to access articles that have been cited in other online articles and allowing us to track the usage and reach of our articles.

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/207229>

- The Biodiversity Heritage Library have discovered a couple of pages missing from the June 1979 newsletter and Feb 1976 is missing altogether from the documents supplied to them for digitising and uploading to the Library. Please contact Emily or Margaret if you have a copy of either of these newsletters.

**Reports:**

**Treasurer's Report**

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Opening bal. as at Feb. 2, 2024: | \$8,650.94        |
| Income                           | \$0.00            |
| Expenses:                        | \$148.75          |
| Closing bal.:                    | <u>\$8,502.19</u> |

The Treasurer’s report was accepted

## **General Business**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March field trip**, 9.30am – 5pm: Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve, led by Marilyn Hewish (co-author of “Birds of the Long Forest 1889-2005) and Emily Noble.

**Calendar of Activities for 2024-25** is coming together well, with more details to come shortly.

Claire mentioned that she has been providing various pieces of information from FNCB’s history to Susan Kruss to inform Susan’s PhD and asked if anyone knew Joanne Binn’s married surname.

No-one did. Claire had also realised that we missed having a celebration of the Club’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2022 so should aim to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Carol will send Susan a copy of the group photo she took of attendees at the Club’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

## **Show & Tell/ Field Reports**

Sheree showed us a still photo and short video of a spider about the size of a 20c piece she had found at home in Smeaton, wondering if anyone could identify it. Whilst no-one was sure of its identity, the suggestion was that it was probably one of the Orb-weavers.

Carol happily reported that after many years of hearing Little Grass-birds in the reeds at Lake Wendouree with only an occasional quick glimpse, she finally got a good look at one, and a good photo near Piper’s Café. It has been posted on the BirdLife Ballarat Facebook page if anyone would like to see it.

Marilyn recommended using bird recordings on iNaturalist because they are generally much easier and quicker to capture than photos.

Angela showed us a photo of a lovely black and yellow moth she’d found at Torquay, possibly a Tiger Moth. Marilyn suggested using Vol. 2 of Moths of Victoria to identify it.

**Next Meeting:** Member’s Images- Wilderness. Please pop a few images on this theme onto a USB or send them to Graeme Lunt ([gjlunt@gmail.com](mailto:gjlunt@gmail.com)) before 9pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April and share some stories about them with members (keeping your presentation under 10 min’s).

**When?** Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 7.30pm in person at the Federation University building at the corner of Gillies St & Gregory St, Wendouree or via Zoom if you prefer. Meeting closed 9.31pm

### **A note from the Treasurer:**

The committee recommended, and it was passed at the AGM, that our membership fees remain at the same level as last year. We have not needed to increase our membership fees for quite a few years now due to our strong and stable financial position.

### **Membership Fees for 2024 are now due:**

Ordinary Member (Adult) \$35

Distant Member \$20

Family \$55

Student Member \$15

Newsletter Postage \$13.20

**Preferred Payment Method** is by **direct deposit**, our bank account details as follows:

Account Name: Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat Inc.

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 119 112 290

Reference: Your Name

### **Other payment methods:**

In person at any branch of the Bendigo Bank, use the account details above and be sure to ask for a reference of your name to be included on the transaction.

In person at the April Club meeting, I can take payment of cash or cheque.

Post a cheque to PO Box 328W, Ballarat West VIC 3350

Your prompt payment will be greatly appreciated.

Kathy Elder - Treasurer FNCB

### **Items for Our Club Newsletter**

We encourage many of our members throughout the year to volunteer to write up accounts of our guest speakers' presentations and/ or things we discovered on our monthly field trips, and send them to our Editor/s within 2 weeks.

Photos are also welcome, but please send in a small size.— suggest 800 x 540 dimension and 240 KB

Other smaller items to part fill pages are also welcome— eg a book review or other items of interest to Field Nats.



### **SEANA Weekends**

Registration forms are now available & the 2nd circular sent this week for the **SEANA Phillip Island 19th– 22nd April** weekend. Hosted by The Field Naturalist club of Victoria– FNCV.

The **SEANA Spring camp Marysville 25– 27th Oct** will be hosted by Ringwood FNC. The first information letter has now been sent out with encouragement to book accommodation

Ballarat FNC is hosting the Spring SEANA in 2025

### **Our Next Club Meeting April 5th** **Member's Images- Wilderness.**

Please pop a few images on this theme onto a USB or send them to Graeme Lunt ([gjlunt@gmail.com](mailto:gjlunt@gmail.com)) before 9pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April and share some stories about them with members (keeping your presentation under 10 min's).

Please then send a summary and an image to the Editor for our newsletter

### **Arrangements for the Sunday April 7th Field Trip-**

Meet at Federation University building, cnr Gillies St and Gregory St for carpool/ convoy. Depart 9.30am sharp. Drive to Ditchfield Lane, Nerrina. Head east on a good trail for a short, flat walk along the Yarrowee River before returning to cars for morning tea. Then head south-west for a short, out-and-back walk on the continuation of the Yarrowee River Trail, enjoying the birdlife and streamside vegetation.

Lunch at Gong Gong Reservoir Park picnic ground (toilets available), on the Ballarat-Daylesford Road, 12.30pm.

1.15pm-3.30pm Drive in convoy to the end of Lofven St, Nerrina, parking next to the rehabilitated tip site. Walk along track into unnamed Nerrina bushland with a picturesque dam. Return to Federation University by 4pm.

You could bring binoculars, camera, magnifying lens, field guides, morning tea and lunch, thermos, camp chair and water bottle.

Please note: a volunteer is needed to write-up this field trip for the next newsletter. Please contact Emily to volunteer.

## Meetings and Excursions

**Club meeting Fri April 5th** Members Images *Wilderness*

**Sunday April 7th Field trip** **Nerrina** (details page 19)

*Future events :*

**Friday 3rd May** Nicole Kearney of Biodiversity Heritage Library:  
“Capturing the history of Victoria’s Field Naturalists Clubs”.

**Sunday 5th May** Field trip to La Gerche Trail to include minor sign  
and trail maintenance and enjoy autumn colours

*Volunteers needed to write up these events for our newsletter.*

**Next Committee meeting** **Tues. 23rd April at 7.30 pm by Zoom**

**Club meetings are normally held on 1st Friday of the month at  
7.30 pm at the Federation Uni Gillies St Campus (corner of  
Gillies and Gregory Sts, Lake Wendouree),  
Committee**

**Correspondence:** PO Box 328W, Ballarat West, 3350

Editor:

Treasurer

**Website:** <http://fieldnatballarat.wordpress.com>

**Club email:** [ballaratfnc@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratfnc@gmail.com)

**Meetings** - in person and may continue to be held via Zoom.

Members will be kept informed of arrangements each month.

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